

C1 NO:3, or a recombinant type of the isolated nucleic acid, encoding a vitamin D receptor related (VDRR) polypeptide.

8. (Third Amendment) The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid sequence is that of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) OR Fig. 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

C2 9. (Third Amendment) The nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is substantially the same as that of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Fig. 7 (SEQ ID NO:3).

C3 15. (Amended) A cell containing an expression vector according to claim 13.

Please add the following claims 42-55:

--42. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 2, consisting of a truncated form of that of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Fig. 7 (SEQ ID NO:3) wherein one or more amino acids are omitted at the N-terminal end thereof.--

C4 --43. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 2, consisting of an extended form of that of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Fig. 7 (SEQ ID NO:3) wherein one or more amino acids have been added at the N-terminal end thereof.--

--44. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 2, consisting of a mutated form of that of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Fig. 7 (SEQ ID NO:3) wherein one or more amino acids have been substituted by another amino acid, respectively.--

--45. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 1, having the nucleic acid sequence of Fig. 4 (SEQ ID NO:2), or substantially the same as that of Fig. 4 (SEQ ID NO:2).--

--46. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 1, having the nucleic acid sequence of Fig. 8 (SEQ ID NO:4), or substantially the same as that of Fig. 8 (SEQ ID NO:4).--

Cy --47. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 33, wherein said DBD comprises the following amino acid sequence similarity:

- (i) about 65% amino acid sequence similarity with the DBD of hVDR; and
- (ii) about 71% amino acid sequence similarity with the DBD of xONR1.

--48. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 2, encoding the VDRR polypeptide, comprising a ligand-binding domain (LBD) comprising the following amino acid sequence similarity, relative to the LBDs of hVDR and xONR1, respectively:

- (i) at least 30% amino acid sequence similarity with the LBD of hVDR; and
- (ii) at least 40% amino acid sequence similarity with the LBD of xONR1.--

--49. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 48, wherein said LBD comprises the following amino acid sequence similarity:

- (i) at least 35% amino acid sequence similarity with LBD of hVDR; and
- (ii) at least 45% amino acid sequence similarity with the LBD of xONR1.

--50. (NEW) The nucleic acid according to claim 49, wherein said LBD comprises the following amino acid sequence similarity:

- (i) about 42% amino acid sequence similarity with LBD of hVDR; and
- (ii) about 54% amino acid sequence similarity with the LBD of xONR1.

--51. (NEW) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim

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C 4 --52. (NEW) A cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 2--

--53. (NEW) A cell containing an expression vector according to claim 51--

--54. (NEW) A process for recombinant production of a VDRR polypeptide, the process comprising expressing the nucleic acid of claim 2 in a suitable host cell.--

--55. (NEW) The process according to claim 54, wherein the host cell is eukaryotic.--